

### An Educational Autocracy.

The State Department of Education, in promoting its campaign for the adoption of the two school amendments, is having published in the Louisville newspapers a series of interviews with school heads throughout the State, a very large percentage of whom declare themselves in favor of the amendments.

The persistency with which these interviews are being printed leads to the conclusion that the Department regards this species of propaganda as a very impressive argument for the adoption of the amendments.

A basic principle that the Department seems to have overlooked entirely is that the schools exist for the benefit of the children, and not for the benefit of the teachers and the superintendents. School laws should be framed and administered in the interest of the children who attend the schools and the taxpayers who support the schools, rather than in the interest of the teachers and superintendents, who are the beneficiaries of the taxpayers' money.

Moreover, the administration of any law should not be left to the element in our population most directly affected by that administration. If this were permitted, selfish considerations would invariably defeat justice.

If our banking laws were framed and administered by the bankers alone we might depend upon it that they would be in the interest of the banks and not the people. If the manufacturers framed the tariff laws, manufacturers' interests would be given prime consideration. The same principle is true in any profession or in any line of business. Lopsided justice would be the result.

We do not mean to go to the other extreme. Bankers should be consulted on laws affecting financial matters; manufacturers on tariff schedules; railroad officials and labor leaders when workingmen's laws are being enacted, but the influence should be only of an advisory character. No special class should be allowed to dictate the legislation under which it operates. There should be a variety of counsel, providing a system of checks and balances, which is the best insurance against special favors, and the best guaranty of wise and just laws.

During the present campaign in Kentucky, it seems that this principle is being disregarded. An educational autocracy is being set up in the State to jam down the people's throats two constitutional amendments for which there is no general public sentiment whatever.

There is a callous indifference to the fact that the schools are sustained by the taxpayers for the benefit of the children, and not the teachers. One would think from the long and imposing list of interviews published daily that the schools in Kentucky were the private property and concern of the teachers, who are their beneficiaries, instead of the people, who are supporting them.

We regret that an ambitious State Superintendent at Frankfort, in building up an educational machine, has fostered such an idea. In the name of education,

al progress, he has done the cause of education in Kentucky an incalculable injury. He has placed upon the great interest of which he is the head the stamp of autocracy, which the people are sure to resent.

By his unreasonable demands, and the character of campaign that has been conducted, he has put the schools of Kentucky in a position where they may fail in the future to get their just deserts at the people's hands.

The popular resentment that has been aroused against an unworthy school program in Kentucky may easily sweep on until it gathers in its opposition a resentment against every worthy cause.

It is time, in the interest of a cause greater than any man or every man now connected with it in Kentucky, for Mr. Colvin and his enthusiastic zealots to call a halt in their campaign. There is no chance for them to carry their amendments, and in pursuing a blind hope, they may do great injury to an interest which is indispensable to the State's progress, and which thousands of Kentuckians who are not and will never be the beneficiaries of school laws, feel a vital concern.—E. Town News.

### Why Men Commit Suicide.

The coroner of Chicago reports that suicides in that city increased 34 per cent during the first seven months of 1921 as compared with the first seven months of 1920.

An analysis of his report shows that three times as many men killed themselves as women. All were between the ages of 30 and 40. Twice as many married men found life unendurable as compared with the bachelors, which might indicate that the city by the lake is not one to be selected for connubial felicity.

As to the means of "shuffling off this mortal coil," a third of the unfortunates chose gas as a method. Shooting was a close second and the cause given were temporary insanity, in most of the cases, and despondency in the others.

Mental experts have expressed doubt of the sanity of any person who deliberately ends his own life. The natural dread of the unknown, in the normal, right-minded person, keeps many a sufferer "bearing the ills we have, rather than fly to others that we know not of."

"How much the human heart may bear and yet not break," wrote the poet long ago. And it is true and very fortunate for the human race that it is true. The old maxim that "As long as there is life there is hope," still appeals powerfully to the most of us and causes us to seek to make the best of what may times appear to be a desperate situation.

This is seen in the case of those suffering from mortal illness. They hang on desperately to life, fight for it and often win their battle through sheer determination. This was true in the influenza epidemic, in which many strong men and women died, while frail and feeble bodies came through the fight surviving.

The German Reichstag has ratified the treaty of peace between Germany and this country.

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Gen. Dwight E. Aultman, the new Commander at Camp Knox, has arrived and says this camp will be a training center.

As famine sweeps over Russia the death toll is appalling, and 25,000,000 is the lowest estimate of those likely to starve.

Charles C. McChord, of Springfield, Ky., who has been a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission since 1911 has been made Chairman of that body.

An organization of 200,000, known as the "Anti-Drys," has been formed in the East for the purpose of increasing dissatisfaction with the prohibition laws.

Urey Woodson has just celebrated his 40th anniversary as the editor and publisher of the Owensboro Messenger.

In New York a riot in a church resulted in the killing of one man by the priest, who hit him with a gold weapon.

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